

XXVIII.—*Notes on some South-American Mammals, with Descriptions of new Species.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE identification of some mammals which have been received from Western Colombia, collected by M. G. Palmer, and from Santa Catherina, collected by W. Ehrhardt, has resulted in the following notes and descriptions.

Vampyressa pusilla and its Allies.

Wagner's *Phyllostoma pusillum* was placed by Peters and Dobson in *Chiroderma*, then by myself in *Vampyrops*, in which, on account of its special dental formula, I considered it to represent a peculiar subgenus, *Vampyressa*, since raised to a genus by Miller.

One species only has been hitherto known, a native of South Brazil, and our knowledge of it rests mainly on the account given by Peters* of a specimen in the Leyden Museum which he states to agree absolutely with Wagner's type, an immature example. In his recently published posthumous 'Plates of Chiroptera' † he gives an admirable figure of the Leyden specimen, which for present purposes we should accept on his authority as typical.

The British Museum contains six specimens of *Vampyressa* from the western side of the Andes, and these prove to belong to two species, neither of which can be assigned to *V. pusilla*.

Vampyressa nymphæa, sp. n.

Size comparatively large, slightly larger than *V. pusilla*, considerably larger than *V. thyone*. General colour smoke-grey, rather lighter below. Facial stripes conspicuous and strongly marked, the upper ones running back to behind the ears. Area round eye blackish.

Skull largest of the genus, its shape as figured by Peters in *V. pusilla*.

Teeth quite differently shaped to those of *pusilla*. P^4 rounded, triangular in section, without the conspicuous postero-internal concavity shown in Peters's plate. M^1 barely as broad as long, with a broad rounded-quadragular

* MB. Ak. Berl. 1866, p. 395.

† Mus. Zool. Berl. Chiropt. pl. xii. a. figs. 10-15 (1906).

internal lobe; very different to the much broader than long, internally pointed tooth figured by Peters. M^2 also tending rather towards a quadrangular shape, not so distinctly triangular as in *pusilla*. M_1 longer than broad, instead of the converse, with one high antero-external cusp and a broad posterior basal ledge.

Forearm 36 mm.

Skull: greatest length 21; basal length 16.5; zygomatic breadth 12.2; mastoid breadth 10.5; palate length 10; front of upper canine to back of m^2 7.5.

Hab. Novita, Rio S. Juan, Chocó, W. Colombia. Alt. 150'.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 9. 7. 17. 40. Original number 135. Collected 28th November, 1908, by M. G. Palmer.

This species is so different from *V. pusilla* in the shape of its teeth as to induce a doubt as to whether it is rightly referred to this genus. Unfortunately the upper incisors, anterior premolars, and posterior lower molars are missing in the only specimen, but, judging from the shape and number of the alveoli, no further material differences besides those above mentioned seem to occur in these missing teeth. In any case, it is not an *Artibeus*, as shown by the structure of the teeth; its dental formula is that of *Vampyressa*.

Vampyressa thyone, sp. n.

Size comparatively small. Colour above whitish brown anteriorly, uniform pale brown posteriorly, very much as in *Mesophylla macconnelli*, which we have received from this same region. Under surface paler brown. Facial streaks short and inconspicuous, though present, area round eye pale brown.

Skull similar to that of *V. pusilla*, but smaller. Teeth like those of that animal in shape, except that both the anterior premolar and the posterior molar in the upper jaw are wider transversely and shorter antero-posteriorly, the difference in the last-named tooth being especially noticeable.

Forearm of type 32 mm.

Skull: greatest length 19; basal length 15.3; zygomatic breadth 11; mastoid breadth 9.5; palate length 9.2; front of canine to back of m^2 6.1.

Hab. (of type). Chimbo, near Guayaquil, Ecuador. Alt. 1000'. Other specimens from Chocó, W. Colombia.

Type. Adult male in alcohol. B.M. no. 97. 11. 7. 77. Collected 30th April, 1897, by W. Rosenberg. Presented by Oldfield Thomas.

This species is readily distinguishable from *V. pusilla* by its smaller size, the forearm of the adult specimen described by Peters having been 35 mm. in length, and its skull, measured on the plate, 20 mm. The narrow transverse shape of the last upper molar is also distinctive and quite uniform in the five examples of *V. thyone* before me.

BASSARICYON.

Dr. Allen has recently* described a second Central-American species of this genus, apparently being considerably influenced to do so by his taking the Panama specimens figured by Huet† as practically topotypical of *B. gabbi*, whose original locality was Talamanca, S.E. Costa Rica.

But Huet's did not come from the north of Panama in the sense of the part of Panama State nearest towards North America, which would be adjacent to Talamanca, but from near the town of Panama, a very different place; for Prof. Trouessart has kindly examined the original registers at my request, and finds that the entry runs:—"Village de Caimito, province de Chorreo [not Correo, as misprinted by Huet], un peu au nord de Panama." Allowing for the bad writing of M. Boucard, the collector, Prof. Trouessart thinks "Chorreo" means "Chorrera," a place quite close to Panama City.

Dr. Allen assumes that no more specimens of *Bassaricyon* have been collected than those referred to in literature, forgetting that he had seen additional specimens during his last visit to the British Museum.

As a matter of fact, the Museum now contains eight examples belonging to the genus, and these appear to me to belong to three types, as follows:—

1. Skull rounded, with very convex frontal profile. General colour less fulvous, more greyish or brownish.

B. gabbi (and possibly *B. richardsoni*).

Hab. Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and N.W. Panama. Examples from Chiriqui in the Museum Collection may be taken as representative, that locality being really very near to Talamanca.

2. Skull rounded. General colour strongly fulvous.

B. medius, sp. n.

Hab. Central Panama to Western Colombia.

* Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xxiv. p. 662 (1908).

† N. Arch. Mus. (2) v. p. 1, pl. i. (1883).

3. Skull comparatively flat and low. Colour fulvous.

B. alleni.

Hab. Venezuela to Peru, the most southern locality being Chanchamayo.

The differences in the shape of m^3 and of the mandibular coronoid process, originally used by myself in describing *B. alleni*, prove to be too variable to be of much service.

Bassaricyon medius, sp. n.

General colour fulvous, varying from a dull fulvous quite like that of *B. alleni* to a more tawny fulvous like that of Huet's figure. Under surface buff. Face, as usual, greyer, the contrast not sharply defined. Ears more or less grizzled with blackish. Tail long, well haired, with a suppressed indication of brown and fulvous annulation running throughout its length, as is the case in the other members of the genus; some hairs at its extreme tip white.

Skull distinctly of the more rounded type observable in the Chiriqui specimens of *B. gabbi*, but not quite so strongly marked, rather smaller and less powerfully marked than in that animal. Frontal outline convex; brain-case swollen, interorbital space slightly convex, not flattened; muzzle smaller and lighter than in *B. gabbi*. Teeth in general characters like those of *B. gabbi*, but the molars rather smaller. Throughout the genus, however, the shape of the teeth proves to be rather variable and of less use as a character than has been supposed. One example even has a triangular m^3 on one side and a subquadrangular one on the other.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 352 mm.; tail 435; hind foot 72; ear 34.

Skull: greatest length 81; condylo-basal length 75; zygomatic breadth 51; interorbital breadth 16·8; breadth of brain-case 35; palatal length 42·5; combined length of upper molars 13·2; front of canine to back of m^3 28·3.

Hab. Jimenez, mountains inland of Chocó, W. Colombia. Alt. 2400'.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 9. 7. 17. 10. Original number 54. Collected 16th April, 1907, by M. G. Palmer. Three specimens.

The considerable difference in colour *inter se* among these three specimens from Jimenez and again between the two that we have from Chiriqui shows that slight differences in coloration cannot be made the basis of specific distinction in this genus.

Sciurus (Microsciurus) palmeri, sp. n.

Like *S. (M.) mimulus*, Thos., in almost every respect, with the one important exception that the ornamenting black of the upper surface, which in *mimulus* consists of a line down the back, is here represented by black on the face and muzzle.

General colour above blackish brown, profusely ticked with buffy; no dorsal dark line. Under surface with the throat and chest ochraceous rufous, rather more rufous than the tawny ochraceous of *mimulus*; belly mixed ochraceous and brownish; outer side of hips more ochraceous. Centre of face, over a triangular area extending from the tip of the nose to just in front of the ears, deep glossy black in the most typical specimens, though in some individuals it is ticked with buffy and more brownish. Cheeks brownish ochraceous. Hands and feet brown, becoming rich ochraceous on the digits. Tail-hairs mixed black and ochraceous.

Skull a little larger than that of *mimulus*, but otherwise similar.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 145 mm.; tail 126; hind foot 38; ear 13.5.

Skull: greatest length 40.3; basilar length 30; zygomatic breadth 24; length of upper tooth-series exclusive of p^3 6.1.

Hab. Chocó, Western Colombia. *Type* from Sipi, Rio Sipi, Rio San Juan. Alt. 1500'.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 9. 7. 17. 25. Original number 123. Collected 24th September, 1908, by Mr. M. G. Palmer. Eight specimens.

This well-marked species, which I have named in honour of its discoverer, who had already done good collecting work in Nicaragua, is readily recognizable by the blackening of its forehead and muzzle, which seems to take the place of the black dorsal line in its nearest ally the Ecuadorean *S. (M.) mimulus*.

Ecomys catherinæ, sp. n.

Size largest of the genus. Fur soft and thick; hairs of back about 13 mm. in length. General colour above some shade of fulvous, but the specimen has been discoloured and probably rendered more strongly fulvous by spirit. Under surface soiled whitish, not sharply defined laterally, the hairs slaty for four-fifths their length, their tips dull buffy whitish—in most *Ecomys* the belly-hairs are white to their roots. Head, arms, and legs grey. Hands brown on the middle of

the metacarpus, the sides and the fingers white; feet white, a brownish patch on the metatarsus. Tail-hairs wholly brown above and below, scarcely lengthened at tip.

Skull with the usual rounded shape found in *Æcomys*, but the supraorbital ridges are unusually developed and pass back as strongly marked ridges across the parietals; nasals narrow. Anteorbital plate of zygoma more developed than is usual in *Æcomys*, more as in *Oryzomys*, projecting about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in front of the upper bridge. Palatal foramina short, broad, widely open. Molars strong, quadrangular.

Dimensions of the type (measured in spirit):—

Head and body 132 mm.; tail 166; hind foot 30; ear 20.

Skull: greatest length 34; basilar length 26.5; zygomatic breadth 17; nasals 11; interorbital breadth 6.2; breadth across parietal ridges 12.7; palatilar length 15; palatal foramina 6×3.1 ; upper molar series 5.2.

Hab. Joinville, Santa Catherina, S. Brazil.

Type. Adult male. Original number 30. Collected by W. Ehrhardt.

This is a most interesting species on two accounts. Geographically it forms a great extension of the known range of the group, no bush-rats, *Æcomys* or *Rhipidromys*, being known from South Brazil and no *Æcomys* nearer than Matto Grosso, unless the peculiar "*Rhipidromys*" *rufescens* of Rio Janeiro should prove to be a member of this genus.

Then in its structure *Æ. catherinae* is abnormal in that its zygomatic plate is as developed as in ordinary *Oryzomys*, thus showing that this character is not so constant as I had supposed it to be. The external characters are distinctly those of the bush-living *Æcomys*, notably the short broad feet, with proportionally long hallux and fifth toe, and the well-haired unicolor tail. The tail in all true *Oryzomys*, owing to their living on the ground, is white or whitish underneath, at least proximally, while in all the bush-rats it is wholly dark above and below.

The Groups referred to the Genus Oxymycterus.

Ever since I described, in 1897*, the aberrant *Oxymycterus lanosus* and Dr. Allen named the still more aberrant *O. apicalis* † it has been obvious that the genus ought to be divided into three, corresponding respectively to the typical *Oxymycteri* and to the two species above mentioned.

Considering how different the animals are externally, it is

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) xx. p. 218.

† Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xiii. p. 224 (1900).

curious how few tangible characters can be drawn from the skulls, while the teeth, as is the usual difficulty in the *Akodon-Orymycterus* group of genera, give practically no help at all.

The following are the three genera I propose to recognize:—

Orymycterus, Waterhouse.

Fore claws elongated, fossorial; nail of pollex narrow, pointed. Muzzle long, mobile. Tail much shorter than head and body (about two-thirds).

Skull with a long muzzle, the nasals produced forwards in old specimens and expanded anteriorly, so as to make a more or less trumpet-shaped opening, their posterior end anterior to the front of the orbit. Zygomatic plate narrow, slanting, its anterior edge sloping all the way down to its junction with the maxilla. Brain-case large, smooth, rounded, contrasting with the long slender muzzle.

Range. Brazilian region, extending westwards into Peru and south to La Plata. Not known north of the Amazon.

Type. *O. nasutus*, Waterhouse. Other species: *O. rufus*, Desm.*, *hispidus*, Pict., *juliacæ*, All., *rostellatus*, Wagn., *quæstor*, Thos., *delator*, Thos., *inca*, Thos., &c.

Lenoxus, gen. nov.

Form normal, rat-like, muzzle not specially elongated. Fore claws of moderate size, not fossorial; nail of pollex not pointed. Tail about the length of the head and body.

Skull more normal in shape, and though the muzzle is long, it is broad and heavy proximally and tapers distally; nasals not expanded anteriorly, but reaching posteriorly behind the front edge of the orbit. Interorbital region swollen, rounded. Zygomatic plate narrow as in all this group, but its anterior edge turns vertically downwards before uniting with the maxilla. Brain-case not large in proportion to the muzzle. Interparietal well developed.

* I had been disposed to demur to the common reference of Desmarest's *Mus rufus* to *Orymycterus*, as this was based solely on the "Rat roux" of the French edition of Azara, and there the animal is said to have a somewhat blunt nose, being even compared to the European Water-Vole. But the precise agreement of Azara's description with examples of *Orymycterus* from this region both in proportions and colour now makes me think that the nose of his specimen, which was preserved in spirit and then half dried up, must have got contracted or distorted, perhaps through pressure against the sides of the bottle. Azara's "Hocicudo" of the Spanish edition is unquestionably an *Orymycterus*, and his opinion that the two were the same species may be accepted as correct.

Range. Peru (Inambari River).

Type. *Lenoxus apicalis* (*Oxymycterus apicalis*, Allen).

As I noticed in 1901*, this striking species has none of the peculiar appearance characteristic of *Oxymycterus*, and there is no doubt it should form a distinct genus.

Microxus, gen. nov.

Form normal, mouse-like, or rather *Akodon*-like. Muzzle not elongate. Fore feet normal, not fossorial, the claws small and the pollical nail not pointed. Tail shorter than head and body.

Skull like that of a small *Akodon*, except for the characteristic narrow zygomatic plate; smooth and rounded, without ridges, the muzzle of normal size and shape; nasals not expanded anteriorly, extending posteriorly to the line of the front of the orbit.

Range. South America, from Bogota to Straits of Magellan.

Type. *Microxus mimus* (*Oxymycterus mimus*, Thos., 1901).

Other species: *M. bogotensis* (*Akodon bogotensis*, Thos., 1895), *M. lanosus* (*Oxymycterus lanosus*, Thos., 1897), and *M. iheringi* (*Oxymycterus iheringi*, Thos., 1896).

That the first three of the species assigned to this genus had a special inter-relationship was indicated when *M. mimus* was described in 1901†. Their skulls are remarkably similar to each other. On the other hand, *M. iheringi* is less typical, showing a distinct tendency towards the peculiar characteristics of *Oxymycterus*.

Good figures of skulls representing all three of the genera of this group now recognized have been published by Dr. Allen in his fine work on the Mammals of Southern Patagonia‡.

Oxymycterus angularis, sp. n.

Allied to *O. hispidus*, but with shorter tail and with a curved, almost angular, front edge to the zygomatic plate.

Size and colour about as in *O. hispidus*, as represented by a series from Espiritu Santo. The upper surface dull bistre-brown, becoming rather warmer on the posterior back, where the light rings on the hairs, buffy anteriorly, become more ochraceous. Sides rather lighter. Under surface dark greyish, the tips of the hairs buffy. Ears, hands, and feet

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) vii. p. 189 (1901).

† Tom. cit. p. 184.

‡ Rep. Princeton Exp. iii. pt. i. pls. ix. & x. (1905).

uniform dark brown. Tail shorter than in the *Espiritu Santo hispidus*, blackish brown throughout.

Skull like that of *O. hispidus*, with the curious exception that the anterior zygoma-root, which in *hispidus* has the typical *Oxymycterus* character of being very narrow, with a slanting and slightly curved—almost straight—front edge, has here a distinctly curved edge, so that its outline is more as in ordinary Cricetines, or at least as in *Lenoxus* *.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 160 mm.; tail 100; hind foot 30; ear 21.

Skull: length of nasals 14; palatilar length 14; upper tooth-row 5.6.

Skull of another specimen: greatest length 36.3; condylo-basal length 33; zygomatic breadth 17; nasals 13.8×4.4 ; interorbital breadth 7.1; breadth of brain-case 15.3; palatilar length 14.4; palatal foramina 8.1; length of upper molar series 5.6.

Hab. São Lourenço, near Pernambuco. Alt. 30 m.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 3. 10. 1. 56. Original number 1706. Collected 14th August, 1903, by A. Robert. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. Five specimens.

Except for its rather shorter tail, this *Oxymycterus* does not appear to differ externally from *O. hispidus*, but in the characters of its zygoma-root it forms an exception to all the members of the genus, more resembling *Lenoxus*, to which, however, its general appearance and long fore claws show that it has no real relationship.

Oxymycterus judex, sp. n.

A large dark rufous species, with large brain-case.

Size largest of the S.-Brazilian species. General colour, in a spirit-specimen, dark coppery rufous, the back blacker, the sides more rufous, the belly dull tawny rufous. Ears, hands, feet, and tail dark brown, without rufous tinge. Claws particularly long and powerful. Hind feet large and heavy, the fifth sole-pad small and inconspicuous, the sixth very large.

Skull large and heavy, with large brain-case, this being conspicuously larger in proportion to the muzzle than it is in the Parana *O. quæstor*. Thus the brain-case, measured from antero-external to postero-external corner, is 15.7 mm. in length, while it is only 14.5 in *O. quæstor*, whose muzzle is

* Not so strongly curved as in the *Lenoxus apicalis* figured by Allen, but quite as in a rather younger example in the British Museum collection.

of nearly equal length. Muzzle heavy, the nasals raised and broadened anteriorly. Zygomatic plates of normal *Oryzomys* shape.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 152 mm.; tail 129; hind foot 34.5; ear 22.5.

Skull: greatest length 42; basilar length 31.5; zygomatic breadth 17.6; nasals 16.2 × 4.5; interorbital breadth 6.8; breadth of brain-case 16.4; palatilar length 15.5; diastema 10.1; palatal foramina 8.8; upper molar series 5.8.

Hab. Joinville, Santa Catherina.

Type. Adult male. Original number 21. Collected by W. Ehrhardt. Five specimens examined.

This species appears to be most nearly allied to *O. quæstor*, but is distinguished by its larger size and much larger brain-case.

Loncheres medius, sp. n.

A species intermediate between *L. thomasi* and *L. dasythrix*.

Size markedly less than in *L. thomasi*, Ihering, greater than in *L. dasythrix*, Hensel. Fur thickly spinous, the spines about an inch long on the back, rather less than a millimetre broad. General colour above cinnamon-brown, below dull pinkish buff, the bases of the hairs slaty; transition on the sides of the belly quite gradual; a slight but variable amount of white in the gular and inguinal regions. Spines slaty, tipped with black. Ears and the tufts round them black. Hands and feet whitish brown. Tail long, its basal two inches coloured and furred like the body, the remainder well-haired, uniformly dark brown.

Skull very similar in structure to that of *L. thomasi*, but conspicuously smaller. Larger than in *L. dasythrix*.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 230 mm.; tail 240; hind foot 40; ear 17.

Skull: greatest length 53.5; basilar length 42.2; zygomatic breadth 25; nasals 16.5; interorbital breadth 11.2; palatilar length 22; diastema 11.6; length of upper molar series 13.

Hab. (of type). Roça Nova, Serro do Mar, Parana, S. Brazil. Alt. 1600 m. Another specimen from Joinville, Santa Catherina.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 3. 7. 1. 84. Original number 864. Collected 18th September, 1901, by A. Robert. Presented by Oldfield Thomas.

In the British Museum there are examples of three species of *Loncheres* from S. Brazil, distinguished from each other

mainly by size. The largest, *L. thomasi*, Ihering, from the island of São Sebastião, São Paulo, was originally described as a *Mesomys*, because the type had no tail, but was later on erroneously referred by its founder to *L. nigrispina*. It is, however, much larger and differently coloured. The smallest, *L. dasythrix*, Hensel, is represented by one of the original typical skulls from Rio Grande do Sul, and two dealers' specimens from the island of Santa Catherina. The present intermediate species occurs in Parana and the mainland of Santa Catherina.

From all these three Wagner's *L. nigrispina* would appear to be distinguished by its sharply defined light underside, with the fur light to the base, which is mentioned both in the original description and in my notes on the type in Vienna. In size it only equals, or but little exceeds, the smallest of the above-mentioned species, *L. dasythrix*. The type was collected at Ypanema, São Paulo.

Echimys laticeps, sp. n.

In 1902 the British Museum received from Mr. W. Foster topotypical examples from Paraguay of the rare *Echimys spinosus*, Desm. *, and on their arrival I naturally compared them with a specimen bearing the same specific name which had been collected at Lagoa Santa, Minas Geraes, by Reinhardt, determined by Winge †, and acquired by exchange from the Copenhagen Museum.

The two animals were obviously entirely distinct, but as in his great work on the Mammals of Lagoa Santa, Dr. Winge had referred to a "*Loncheres laticeps*, Lund," which he stated to be the same as *E. spinosus*, I let the matter rest, considering *laticeps* available for the Lagoa Santa species.

But now, on again referring to the genus, I find that Lund appears ‡ never to have described his "*Loncheres laticeps*," which therefore was, and still is, a *nomen nudum*, although it has many times been referred to in synonymies. In my search for a description I have been materially assisted by

* *El espinoso*, Azara. The names *spinosus*, Desm., *rufa*, Licht., and *brachyurus*, Wagn., were all originally based on Azara's Paraguayan animal, whatever they were afterwards transferred to by other writers.

† As "*Mesomys*" *spinosus*. I follow Dr. Allen's admirable paper clearing up the much embroiled nomenclature of the genera of this group (Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xii. p. 257, 1899). The real *Mesomys* was identified by me in a later paper (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) xv. p. 590, 1905).

‡ Dr. Winge has been good enough to confirm my belief in the absence of any description.

Dr. Knud Andersen, to whom the Danish literature on the subject is familiar.

But in case a description should turn up, and in any event to keep these synonymies approximately correct, I have thought it advisable to use the specific name *laticeps* for the Lagoa Santa animal, although it is, of course, given under my own responsibility and authorship. It is also not unsuitable, as, owing to the large bullæ with projecting meatus, the posterior part of the skull is decidedly broader than in *E. spinosus*.

The two species may be readily distinguished as follows:—

A. General colour drab-brown, quite without rufous.

Belly white, fairly sharply defined laterally.
Hands and feet brown, with lighter digits;
feet longer in proportion to size of skull; claws
less developed. Tail shorter, brown above,
slightly lighter below.

Bullæ of normal size; muzzle broad and heavy;
palatal foramina short, broadly oval; posterior
palatal notch extending to middle of m^2 .
Incisors very large and heavy.

Hab. Paraguay and South Brazil (Santa
Catherina)

E. spinosus, Desm.

B. General colour coarsely grizzled rufous and black,
blacker on the back, becoming strongly rufous
on rump. Under surface dull whitish or buffy,
not defined laterally. Hands dull whitish, their
claws long and powerful; feet proportionally
shorter, mixed brown and white. Tail longer,
brown with a slightly rufous tone.

Bullæ abnormally large; muzzle comparatively
light; palatal foramina narrow, elongate;
posterior palatal notch only extending to
opposite the front of m^2 ; incisors compara-
tively weak.

Hab. Lagoa Santa, Minas Geraes *E. laticeps*, Thos.

The following are the dimensions of the specimen selected as the type, some measurements of *E. spinosus* being placed in brackets:—

Head and body (on skin, probably shrunk) 200 mm.;
tail 72; hind foot 29; longest fore claw (above) 7.5,

(*E. spinosus*, measured in flesh: head and body 221;
tail 67; hind foot 35; ear 21; longest fore claw 5.5).

Skull: greatest length 49 (50); basilar length 39.5 (40.2);
zygomatic breadth 28 (29); interorbital breadth 11.7 (11.8);
greatest posterior breadth, on meatus 25 (23); palatilar
length 19 (18.2); palatal foramina 5.7 × 2.7 (4.5 × 3.5);
bullæ 16 × 10.5 (exclusive of meatus) (13 × 8.2); upper
molar series 9.2 (9.2).

Hab. Lagoa Santa, on the Rio São Francisco, Minas
Geraes.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 88.1.9.11. Number 595 of the Copenhagen Museum. Collected 13th June, 1851, by Prof. Reinhardt. Received in exchange from the Copenhagen Museum.

Members of this interesting genus are excessively rare in museums, and, so far as I am aware, no other examples of the true *E. spinosus* have been recorded.

Besides the type of *E. laticeps*, the British Museum contains three specimens of *E. spinosus* from Paraguay, and three more have recently come, collected by Herr W. Ehrhardt at Joinville, Santa Catherina.

XXIX.—Remarks on the Species of the Genus *Rheinardtius*.

By D. G. ELLIOT, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., &c.

ARGUS OCELLATUS was founded upon a presumable tail-feather of some unknown bird contained in the collection of the Paris Museum. The name was a MS. one, bestowed by the late Jules Verreaux, but never published by him, and the first description given of the feather was one by myself in the *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1871, viii. p. 119. For many years this feather remained in the bird-gallery of the Paris Museum as sole representative of some unknown but evidently extraordinary species, and when, early in 1880, a complete example of a long-tailed pheasant-like bird was brought from Annam, resembling as regards its tail-feathers the one so long in the Museum, the name *ocellatus* was conferred upon it and a new generic term *Rheinardtius* created for it, and under that name the species has been known up to the present time.

One naturalist, however, evidently did not believe in the identity of the specimen called at present *Rheinardtius ocellatus* with the feather so long in the Museum, for in the 'Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France' Mons. Maingnonnet named the Annam examples *Argus rheinardti*.

While very familiar with the long feather in the Paris Museum, of which a plate containing a full-size figure is given in my 'Monograph of the Phasianidæ,' I had not until lately had an opportunity of examining the Annam bird and comparing it with the feather called *Argus ocellatus*; but this, through the kindness of M. Trouessart, I have now been able to do, for the single feather, while no longer